

PRINCE GEORGE'S COUNTY

HISTORIC SITE SUMMARY SHEET

Survey #: P.G. #71B-14

Building Date: ca. 1908

Building Name: William Luers House

Location: 12900 10th Street, Bowie, Maryland

Private/Residence/Occupied/Excellent/Inaccessible

Description

The William Luers House is a small two-and-one-half-story frame dwelling which is distinguished by ornamental shingling and an oriel window. It is three bays by three bays, has a cross-gambrel roof, and stands on one of the original lots of Huntington City, now known as Bowie. Each of the four elevations consists of a gambrel-shaped gable end. Entrance is in the central bay of the south gable end through a door in the central but off-center bay. The first bay of this south facade consists of a one-story semi-octagonal projecting bay, which has a hip-roof. Across the main south facade is a one-story hip-roof screened porch, with turned posts. The upper section of each gable end projects slightly, and is ornamented with alternating courses of fishscale and clipped-rectangle shingle. The main section of the building is sided with plain horizontal board painted white. Second story fenestration in the south and north gable ends consists of a centered double window, flanked by two tiny round-arched windows. The west elevation is highlighted by a hip-roof oriel window between first and second stories. The gambrel roof is covered with green patterned tin. Centered at its ridge is a corbelled brick chimney. The cornices are wide and boxed, with crown molding, and are returned at each gable end. The house rests on a brick foundation.

Significance

The William Luers House is a good example of a suburban cottage, built in the early years of this century in the railroad town of Bowie. It represents a popular plan for a small family dwelling and is distinguished by its cross-gambrel roof, ornamental shingling and oriel window. The house was built circa 1908 by William Luers, son of Bernard Luers. The elder Luers had immigrated in 1857 from Germany, and in the 1870's had settled in the new railroad town of Huntington, now known as Bowie. William Luers (born 1870) worked in Bowie as a railroad clerk, and continued to live in his father's house after his marriage in 1899. In 1902, he purchased several lots in Block 8, on the west side of the railroad tracks, and within a few years had a small suburban cottage constructed. William Luers resided in this attractive cottage for the remainder of his life, raising his family there. The property passed to his wife, and is today the residence of one of his children. It is a unique and attractive landmark in the railroad town of Bowie.

Acreage: 10,000 square feet

# Maryland Historical Trust State Historic Sites Inventory Form

Magi No.

DOE ☐ yes ☐ no

## 1. Name (indicate preferred name)

historic William Luers House

and/or common

## 2. Location

street & number 12900 10th Street ☐ not for publicationcity, town Bowie ☐ vicinity of congressional district 5

state Md. county Prince George's

## 3. Classification

Category	Ownership	Status	Present Use	
<input type="checkbox"/> district	<input type="checkbox"/> public	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> occupied	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> museum
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> building(s)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private	<input type="checkbox"/> unoccupied	<input type="checkbox"/> commercial	<input type="checkbox"/> park
<input type="checkbox"/> structure	<input type="checkbox"/> both	<input type="checkbox"/> work in progress	<input type="checkbox"/> educational	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private residence
<input type="checkbox"/> site	<b>Public Acquisition</b>	<b>Accessible</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> entertainment	<input type="checkbox"/> religious
<input type="checkbox"/> object	<input type="checkbox"/> in process	<input type="checkbox"/> yes: restricted	<input type="checkbox"/> government	<input type="checkbox"/> scientific
	<input type="checkbox"/> being considered	<input type="checkbox"/> yes: unrestricted	<input type="checkbox"/> industrial	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> not applicable	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> no	<input type="checkbox"/> military	<input type="checkbox"/> other:

## 4. Owner of Property (give names and mailing addresses of all owners)

name Virginia Luers

street &amp; number 12900 10th Street telephone no.:

city, town Bowie state and zip code Md. 20715

## 5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Prince George's County Courthouse Adm. #  
liber 18612

street &amp; number Main Street folio

city, town Upper Marlboro state Md.

## 6. Representation in Existing Historical Surveys

title None

state ☐ federal ☐ state ☐ county ☐ local

depository for survey records

city, town state

## 7. Description

Survey No. P.G.#71B-14

<b>Condition</b>		<b>Check one</b>	<b>Check one</b>
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> excellent	<input type="checkbox"/> deteriorated	<input type="checkbox"/> unaltered	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> original site
<input type="checkbox"/> good	<input type="checkbox"/> ruins	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> altered	<input type="checkbox"/> moved    date of move _____
<input type="checkbox"/> fair	<input type="checkbox"/> unexposed		

Prepare both a summary paragraph and a general description of the resource and its various elements as it exists today.

The William Luers House is a small two-and-one-half-story frame dwelling which is distinguished by ornamental shingling and an oriel window. It is three bays by three bays, has a cross-gambrel roof, and stands on one of the original lots of Huntington City (now known as Bowie).

Each of the four elevations consists of a gambrel-shaped gable end. The principal elevation faces south towards 10th Street; entrance is in the central bay of this south gable end through a door in the central (but off-center) bay. The first bay of this south facade consists of a one-story semi-octagonal projecting bay, which has a hip-roof, and a narrow 1/1 window in each of its three faces. Across the main south facade is a one-story hip-roof porch, with turned posts; the porch, now enclosed with screen, rests on brick piers, with lattice infill. There is a similar screened-in porch across the rear (north) facade.

The upper section of each gable end (above the change in pitch of the roof) projects slightly, and is ornamented with alternating courses of fishscale and clipped-rectangle shingle. Within this shingled section in the south and north gable ends is a small rectangular single-pane window.

The main section of the building is sided with plain horizontal board painted white. Windows are generally 2/2 double hung sash; they have plain board surrounds with outer bead, and no shutters. Second story fenestration in the south and north gable ends consists of a centered double window, flanked by two tiny round arched windows. The west elevation is highlighted by a hip-roof oriel window between first and second stories.

The gambrel roof is covered with green patterned tin. Centered at its ridge is a corbelled brick chimney. The cornices are wide and boxed, with crown molding, and are returned at each gable end. The house rests on a brick foundation which encloses a basement space.

The house fronts on 10th Street, and is accessible by a paved walk between tall oaks. It is also accessible from the rear (north) by a paved driveway from 9th Street. To the west of the drive is a small (mid twentieth century) garage; it is sided with horizontal board, has a green asphalt shingle gable roof, and rests on a concrete foundation. Just west of the house is an old well.

## 8. Significance

Survey No. P.G.#71B-14

Period	Areas of Significance—Check and justify below			
<input type="checkbox"/> prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology-prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> community planning	<input type="checkbox"/> landscape architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> religion
<input type="checkbox"/> 1400-1499	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology-historic	<input type="checkbox"/> conservation	<input type="checkbox"/> law	<input type="checkbox"/> science
<input type="checkbox"/> 1500-1599	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> economics	<input type="checkbox"/> literature	<input type="checkbox"/> sculpture
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> education	<input type="checkbox"/> military	<input type="checkbox"/> social/
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> art	<input type="checkbox"/> engineering	<input type="checkbox"/> music	<input type="checkbox"/> humanitarian
<input type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> commerce	<input type="checkbox"/> exploration/settlement	<input type="checkbox"/> philosophy	<input type="checkbox"/> theater
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> communications	<input type="checkbox"/> industry	<input type="checkbox"/> politics/government	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
		<input type="checkbox"/> invention		<input type="checkbox"/> other (specify)

Specific dates ca. 1908

Builder/Architect

check: Applicable Criteria: ☐ A ☐ B ☐ C ☐ D  
and/or

Applicable Exception: ☐ A ☐ B ☐ C ☐ D ☐ E ☐ F ☐ G

Level of Significance: ☐ national ☐ state ☐ local

Prepare both a summary paragraph of significance and a general statement of history and support.

The William Luers House is a good example of a suburban cottage, built in the early years of this century in the railroad town of Bowie. It represents a popular plan for a small family dwelling and is distinguished by its cross-gambrel roof, ornamental shingling and oriel window.

The house was built circa 1908 by William Luers, son of Bernard Luers. The elder Luers had immigrated in 1857 from Germany, and in the 1870's had settled in the new railroad town of Huntington, now known as Bowie. In the 1880's, he built a frame Victorian dwelling at the southern edge of the town (cf. #71B-12) in which he raised his family. William Luers (born 1870) worked in Bowie as a railroad clerk, and continued to live in his father's house after his marriage in 1899.<sup>1</sup> In 1902, he purchased several lots in Block 8, on the west side of the railroad tracks, and within a few years had a small suburban cottage constructed.<sup>2</sup> This was a one-and-one-half story cottage designed to fit on small town lots. It was a noticeable departure from the larger Queen Anne/Victorian dwellings of his father and brother, Frank (cf. #71B-2-2)

William Luers resided in this attractive cottage for the remainder of his life, raising his family there. The property passed to his wife, and is today the residence of one of his children.<sup>3</sup> It is a unique and attractive landmark in the railroad town of Bowie.

### Notes

<sup>1</sup> Census for Prince George's County, 14th District, 1880, 1900.

<sup>2</sup> Prince George's County Deed, #11:314; Prince George's County Tax Assessments, 1902-1909.

<sup>3</sup> Estate file #18612; Will GSMcG #4:262; interview with members of Luers family, spring 1986.

Survey No. P.G.#71B-14

## 10. Geographical Data

Quadrangle name Laurel, Section I

**Quadrangle scale** \_\_\_\_\_

**B**

Zone Easting Northing

D | | | | |

[illegible]

**H**

state	code	county	code
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**11. Form Prepared By**

state Md.

return to: Maryland Historical Trust  
Shaw House  
21 State Circle  
Annapolis, Maryland 21401  
(301) 269-2438

R-R

WILLIAM T  
HUBBERT  
5373/083  
4.80A. P.213

R-R

R-55

LAUREL BONIE

71B-2-1

71B-2-6

71B-2-7

71B-2-5

71B-2-2

R-55

71B-2-3

71B-2-4

71B-13

R-R

NANCY BROWN  
4182/813  
5.00A  
P.215

71B-12

71B-11

PG. 71B-14

I-1

NEW JERSEY  
STEEL CORP.  
5545/680

OUTLOT A

C-C

C-C

71B-14

R-R

SHOALER

71B-15

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PG#71B-14

William Luers House  
Prince George's County, MD  
Susan G. Pearl  
March 1986  
Northwest 3/4 elevation  
Neg: MD Hist. Trust, Annapolis, MD





PG#71B-14

William Luers House  
Prince George's County, MD  
Susan G. Pearl  
March 1986  
South elevation  
Neg: MD Hist. Trust, Annapolis, MD



PG#71B-14

William Luers House  
Prince George's County, MD  
Susan G. Pearl  
March 1986  
East elevation  
Neg: MD Hist. Trust, Annapolis, MD